

DHHS Secretary- "We Bear Part of the Responsibility" for Health Care Confusion  
BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:

Now to the other big story of the day the other big deadline at midnight, the new health care law at the center of the showdown in Congress. A big part of that law will start to take effect tomorrow when people without health insurance can sign up to buy coverage. But our new poll with the Kaiser Family Foundation shows 70% say they are very or somewhat worried. They'll have to pay more for their health care or health insurance. And 62% of those without insurance say they are confused about this new law. Our Chief Medical Editor Doctor Nancy Snyderman sat down for an exclusive interview with the woman in charge today, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

DOCTOR NANCY SNYDERMAN, reporting:

With all the run-up time to the eve of this, why the confusion today and why not more enthusiasm?

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS (Health and Human Services Secretary): Well, I think it still isn't real for a lot of people. And there is a lot of confusion about it.

DR. SNYDERMAN: Is that your fault?

SEBELIUS: I think we bear part of the responsibility of-- of not being able to get through a lot of the noise.

DR. SNYDERMAN: One of the big concerns is that as the numbers have been tossed out there. And we really don't know how things are going to fall and that the middle class may really take out it on the chin.

SEBELIUS: The middle class I would say depending on where that middle-class employee worked has been taking it on the chin.

DR. SNYDERMAN: But when the President says this is the cost of your cable bill or your cell phone bill. That's not quite true.

SEBELIUS: Well, six out of 10 people will have the choice if they choose to make it, the choice of a policy for under \$100.

DR. SNYDERMAN: But the backend hurts.

SEBELIUS: It's a debate. Do you want to have protection for basically every check-up, every visit, everything that you do or do you have a situation where you are making a determination where you and your family don't use medical services that much and you want to make sure you have protection if something really goes terribly wrong.

DR. SNYDERMAN: But is it conceivable to you that the number of a 5,000 under \$6,000 deductible for a middle class family is a reasonable feasible number?

SEBELIUS: Well, I think that families can make a budget choice. If that isn't something that clearly they can pay for and a lot of people couldn't pay for that out of pocket. They will want a lower deductible.

DR. SNYDERMAN: What does success look like?

SEBELIUS: Well, I think success looks like at least seven million people having signed up by the end of March 2014.

DR. SNYDERMAN: This is coming tomorrow. People without insurance can start signing up to buy it. Tomorrow, October 1st, the benefits then will kick in January 1st 2014. And you will have until March 31st of next year to enroll. I think a lot of people will start to look-- start looking at [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) where you can look at the

marketplace in your own state and then explore your options for your own coverage. There are a lot of options out there. I think people are going to be a little overwhelmed, Brian, when they start to see what this new marketplace looks like.

WILLIAMS: What a time beginning with this 24 hour period. Doctor Nancy Snyderman, thank you as always.

DR. SNYDERMAN: You bet.